## WILMINGTON.

CAPTURE OF FORT ANDERSON

Admiral Porter's Report of the Victory.

ESCAPE OF MOST OF THE GARRISON

The Fort and Guns Left in Good Condition.

The Rebels Abandon Their Works in General Terry's Front.

Both Wings of the Army Moving On to Wilmington.

Our Fleet Beyond the Obstructions.

Wilmington Soon to be in Our Possession,

THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

Admiral Porter's Despatch to Secretary

Welles. WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1865. The Navy Department has received the following from

are—I have the honor to report the surrender or vacuation of Fort Anderson.

General Schofield advanced from Smithville, with eight usand men, on the 17th inst. At the same time I stacked the works by water, placing the Monitor Montauk close to the works, and enfliading them with the Pawtucket, Lenape, Unadilla and Pequot, the tide and wind not allowing more vessels to get under fire. The fort answered pretty briskly, but quieted down by sunset.

On the 18th, at eight o'clock, I moved up closer, with the Montauk leading, followed by the Mackinaw, Huron, Sassacus, Pontusuck, Maratanza, Lenape, Unadilla, Paw-tuckot, Osceola, Shawmut, Seneca, Nyack, Chippewa and Little Ada, and kept up a heavy fire through the day

The enemy's batteries were silenced by three s'clock hough we kept up the fire until dark. We also fired through the night.

In the meantime General Schofield was working in the wait for the army to surround them, but left in the

hem, and everything else of any value.

At daylight this morning some of our troops that were lear by went in and hoisted the flag on the remparis, when the firing ceased from the Monitors There were ten heavy guns in Fort Anderson and a

We lost but three killed and five wounded. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER, Rear Admiral. Hop. Gideon WELLES, Secretary of the Navy

### THE HERALD REPORTS.

Mr. Thomas M. Cook's Lespatches. FORT FISHER, Feb. 18, 1865.

The order has gone forth. The columns are massed. The battle has commenced. Ere this despatch can reach you the doomed city will doubtless be restored to the sdiction of the federal authorities.

Mitherto, for apparent reasons, I have refrained from sentioning the strival of reinforcements at this place. But the public had, doubtless, understood full well that the little handful of men, although all heroes, brought here by General Terry, especially after deducting from their small aggregate the casualties caused by sterming this supposed-to-be-impregnable work, and after detailing a sufficient force to guard twenty. ave hundred prisoners sent North, and, further, after sufficiently garrisoning and securing the works commanding the mouth of the Cape Fear siver—our base of operations—was altogether insequate to undertake a march inland over a country broops of the rebel confederacy. This consideration will relieve General Terry in the minds of the public from any suspicion of backwardness in the management of military operations hereabouts. The authorities have nanifested their confidence in him by the distinguished

ionors conferred upon him.

It will, therefore, be understood that Wilmington is yet in rehel possession from no falt of that gallant officer. ere any blame traceable to any other official source. The sole reason has been the severity of the reather at the North, which has closed important lines transportation and prevented the movement of troops. A little relaxation of the weather permitted a portion of the reinforcements destined for this point to come through. With these the forward movement is now undertaken, the importance of the speedy attainment of the anticipated objects jus Mying the commanding general in advancing without

ies to Wilmington from this direction, on which viii be seen the rebel fortifications and other obstruction to be overcome. In our immediate front, from Federal Point, lies the veteran rebel division of General Hoke, six thousand four hundred strong, occupying a strongly intreached line, reaching from the head of Masonboro Sound, on the east, across the river to Sugar Loaf on the Cape Fear. Sugar Loaf is an artificial mound similar to the work on the right of the sea front of Fort Fisher,

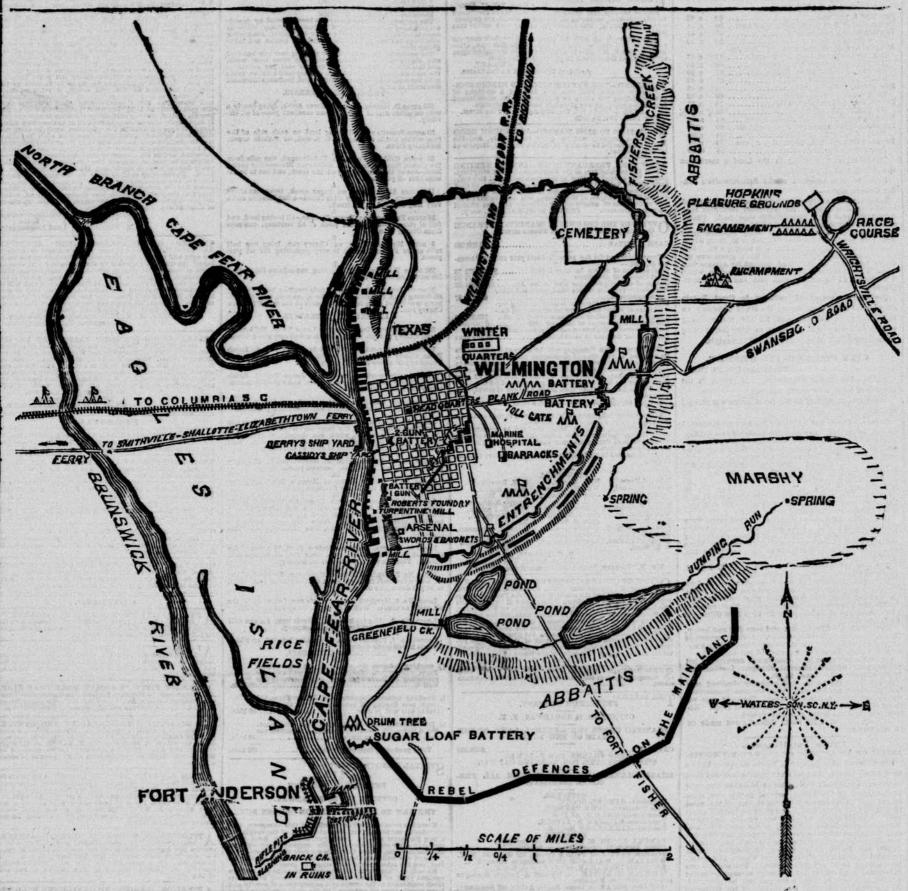
the work on the right of the last rive two heavy guns calleding the front of the rebel position.

We could doubtless make a short job of dislodging floke and destroying his works before breakfast any fine morning it might be deemed advisable to attempt it; but this would only be driving him back into the more elabo rate and formidable works surrounding the city. Could Admiral Porter pass this position with his gunboats there would then be no trouble in "gobbling up". Hoke's troops fer the accomplishment of this plan, the rebels have seen it to obstruct the river opposite this very point, thus preventing the passage of the Admiral's boats. These obstructions have heretofore been described to you. Nor would it be any very herculean undertaking to remove these obstructions, were it not for the fact that the naughty rebels have placed a work, which they call Fort Anderson, immediately at the other end of them, and in such a position as to bear full upon them. This fort is character Fort Fisher, and in reality falling but little be neath that famous work in extent, if, indeed, in the

Here, then, is a formidable line, extending from the ocean to and across the Cape Fear river, and resting upon the extensive swamps and marshes beyond the

# THE CAPTURE OF FORT ANDERSON.

Important Operations of Major General Schofield and Admiral Porter--- Another Step Towards the Investment of Richmond.



river. The work is continuous in all its extent and discloses no weak points.

GEN. SCHOPPELO'S FLAR.

It is hardly necessary to say that the occupation of Wilmington by our forces, to be of service to us, requires the opening of the river to the passage of our vessels. Therefore it is that, even should we dislodge Hoke from the east side of the river, and press bim in his retreat so hard that he would be unable to make a stand at Wilmington, the advantage would be negatived by the rebel ation of Fort Anderson and the obstructions in the river, which that work commands.

General Schofield has examined the situation with the

eye of an experienced campaigner and the tact of a thorough soldier, and his present movement develop his appreciation of the correct strategy. His advance is

MOVEMENTS PRELIMINARY TO THE ADVANCE.

On Thursday night Cox's division of the Twenty-third corps was transferred from Federal Point to Smithville. The movement was an undertaking of no inconsiderable magn tude. Besides the strength of the division, which would be manifestly improper to state, their entire equipage, land transportation, ammunition, commissar; stores and impedimenta in general, had to be forwarded The ferriage was a distance of eight miles. The facilitie of embarkation consisted of a single small dock, at vessels adapted to the service consisted of four small steamers—the Eliza Hancox, C. W. Thomas, Christopher and Howard. Admiral Porter very politely placed thre lighters of his fleet at the disposition of the army for the movement. With these facilities the whole task was accomplished before daylight, Brigadier General Dodge, Chief Quartermaster of the department, giving it his personal superintendence until its full accomplishment.

THE MARCH TO THE REAR OF FORT ANDERSON, At daylight on Friday morning the division moved from Smithville, and at 5 P. M. were in the rear of Fort Anderson. The march was made through an unexplore ountry, over indifferent roads, with many swamps an marshes besetting the way. The details of the march and of the subsequent operations of this branch of the expedition will be given you by the correspondent who companied the mevement.

Seen after noon on Friday Admiral Porter moved up Seen after noon on Friday Admiral Forter moved up a force of gunboate and engaged the fort with considerable earnestness at close quarters until dark. The Monitor Montauk, Commander Stone, led off in this attack, taking up a position about three-fourths of a mile from the heavy fifteen-inch guns were worked from this position to her vigorously, but finding that its heaviest metal produced ne effect upon the iron monster, it de-sisted from the waste of aumunition. Here was developed the exceeding utility of this class of vessels. No other boat known to maritime achitecture could possibly have laid at anchor in such a position, under the very guns of a heavy fort; and yet not a person was in-jured on board the presuming Monitor, although she was hit over and over again in every part of her, nor was the vessel damaged in the slightest degree.
Under cover of the fire of the Monitor the wooden gun

boat Pequot moved up into close range, and exhibited some excellent practice. Others followed, and soon a heavy fire was showered upon the fort, compelling the rebel gunners to seek the shelter of their bombproofs.

THE PEQUOT STRUCK.

During the action, and before the rebels had retired from their guns, a Whitworth bolt' struck a stanchion on the Pequot, scattering splinters in every direction, severely wounding five men, of whom two have since

The object of this attack was merely to draw out the nemy and divert their attention from the movement of our land forces. At dark General Cox's troops were within a couple of miles of the fort, had established exposed their position by lighting numerous camp fires, which, communicating with the dead wood and thick underbrush of the dense pine forest in which they were operating, sent up vast clouds of black smoke, covering the whole country as with a pall. With this, operation

as viewed from the east bank of the river, was surpass ingly sublime. Great sheets of livid flame darted sky ward, and being reflected from the dark clouds above formed a grand and yet terrible spectacle.

During the evening orders were received for the move ment of Ames' division of Terry's force to Smithville, to co-operate with Cox. This movement was commenced at midnight, the troops at that hour being in our extreme front before Hoke. By sunrise this morning they were in Smithville, prepared to co-operate however they might GENERAL COX'S ADVANCE RESUMED

At daylight this morning scattered discharges of mus-cerry on the west bank of the giver indicated that General Cox's skirmishers had already engaged those of the enemy. As daylight advanced the firing became more earnest, and soon it became apparent that our forces were pressing the enemy into their works. By eight o'clock, from indications based upon the firing, the rebels had retired into their outer works enveloping

The admiral, on the first sound from shore, moved his fleet into action. As on the previous day, the Monitor Montauk took the lead, and this time went up within a third of a mile of the fort. The Mackinaw, doubte-ender, Commander Beaumont, followed, going much nearer than any wooden boat had before ventured. She anchored, bow and stern, less than a mile from the rebel work, and was very quickly made the target of their concentrated fire. The Maratanza, Lieutenant Commanding Young, followed soon after, and with her the compliments sent from the fort, which now fell thick and fast about the two. But the fire of these and the rebel guns which bore upon them so much ex-posed, that the rebel garrison fired but wildly, and although striking all about them, and even passing over and falling astern, strange to say none of the gunboats

The Lenape, Lieutenant Commander Barns, followed the Maratanza into close action, and soon after the Sassicus, Pontusuck, Huron, Pequot and Chippewa be-came engaged, causing such an infernal din with their bursting shells in and about the fort, and throwing up such dense volumes of sand with every discharge, that the rebels were again driven to cover.

During the early part of the action, and before the fort had ceased to respond, the Admiral was pulling about in his barge among the fleet, first visiting one vessel and then another, even going as far up as the [Monitor, per their movements and positions.

At noon the fort ceased to fire entirely, and from that time till darkness closed the action the navy had it all its own way, battering down their buge traverses and attempting to knock over their guns. Whether any gone were dismounted is not definitely known, though it is claimed that some were; but the southern face of the fort was sadly disfigured by the severe shelling to which

The enormous shells of the Monitor were thrown with unerring precision at so short a range, every one exploding with effect. Not a shot was wasted from this vessel. Although she fires but slowly, she accom plishes infinitely more in attacking such a work than all the rest of the fleet combined. With her it is a perfect matter of indifference whether the fort responds or not; and at every discharge of sand are shovelled out of the

While the naval action was progressing the land ern front and rear of the fort. Far back in the rear, near a mile, apparently, from the river, the enemy have some outworks, carrying light artillery, commanding the land approaches, and communicating with the main fort by a system of rifle pits and covered ways, so as to form a common work of the whole. This light artillery was used more or less throughout the day, evidently firing upon our troops. Whenever it opened, however, the Monitor turned its guns in that direction, and by bursting a single shell over them would cause the gunners to run

ARMY OPERATIONS.

The country in the rear of the fort is known to be wet and swampy, and hence it is that General Cox may have found obstacles in his way which prevented his attacking the fort this afternoon, as it was generally supposed on this side the river he was to do. Of this, of course, I am ignorant. General Ames' division was ordered to move doubtless, be in position before daylight in the morning. We all feel very confident to-night that by to-morrow night the work will be ours, and with it its garrison. The Admiral has already issued orders to his fleet to en-gare them — morrow at daylight even more closely than they have engaged them to-day, when somebody must The following order announcing, additional members of

the staff of this department is just promulgated :-

Hertenant wy of Subsistance.
Surgeon Edward Shippen, Acting Medical Director.
Captain W. J. Twining, Aid-de-Camp, Chief Engineer.
By order of Major General SCHOFIELD.
J. A. CAMPRELL, Major and Assistant Adjutant General
Official—A. TERRY, Major and Assistant Adjutant General

Colonel Dodge's appointment as brevet brigadier gene rai was received after the issuance of this order.

THE CAPTURE OF THE PORT. Fort Anderson is ours. The river is ours. Wilming ton is virtually ours. As I write Porter's galiant tar are unfurling the Stars and Stripes on the parapet of the

As I wrote you last night, the Admiral made every disposition for a most earnest attack at daylight this morning. Among other ingenious devices to deceive the enemy as to his strength be caused to be constructed an mitation Monitor. During the night this bogus concern was towed up with small boats and put in position close to the fort. The wooden gunboats were also moved up into much closer proximity than on yesterday. At the first gray of dawn this morning our boats opened on the fort, out elicited no response or indication of life. The firing was continued at short intervals until twenty minutes past six, when a white flag was discovered on the work. The Admiral at once moved up and sent a de achment of suilors and mexines ashore to occupy and possess, and as cluded to run.

I conclude this hasty note the broad emblem of our counthe ramparts of the work.

I am, of sourse, unable at this early hour to give you the result of the victory. General Schofield was ma nœuvring his troops last night so as to cut off the only avenue of escape from the fort. He may have succeeded in this, and hence precipitated the rebel evacuation; of they may have retired to fall into the hands of the in clear, since they exhibited a white flag after our firing nad commenced this morning.

I will send further details as I gather them.

UNITED STATES FLAGSHIP MALVERN, Feb. 19-11 A. M. THE REBELS ASSANDON THEIR DEFENCES AT SUGAR LOAF.

The evacuation of Fort Anderson by the rebels was im-mediately followed by the retirement of Hoke, with his forces, from General Terry's front. General Terry ounded an advance the moment the first intimation conveyed to him of the evacuation of Anderson; but the vorks of the rebels were found deserted. His forces are now pressing on up the Peninsula towards Wilmington.

a hasty survey of that work, which he found to carry twelve heavy guns yet in position and uninjured. The took away with them. The fort was destitute of supplies of provisions, but a considerable quantity of valuable ammunition was found stored in the ma gazines. The magnetic instruments for the explo-sion of torpedos was found intact, with the wires leading out into the stream. These were, of course, soon cut. All the small boats in the fleet were then manned and sent out to drag for torpedoes, of which an immense number were found. The Admiral moved followed by the rest of the squadron, all of which have now safely passed the obstructions, and a detachment are under weigh steaming up the river.

It is impossible to say at this writing what Gen. Cox's troops have done. A small force only, under comm of Colonel Moon, are in the vicinity of the fort, the res having passed northward several miles in the rear. Gen. Schofield, who spent the night on his flagship, the Spanid-ing, has just been aboard this vessel; but does not know where General Cox is. It is, however, confidently hoped that he was in position last night to cut off the retreat of the rebels from Anderson; and it will be no surprise if it shall result in our possession of Wilmington by three

General Schofield is making dispositions to recross some of his troops to reinforce Terry on the cast bank o with all vigor.

ORNERAL COX'S LOSS.

In his skirmishing yesterday General Cox lost but twenty-six men, all told, in killed and wounded. He cap-

tured fifty prisoners. Other definite details of his move

The Admiral's bogus Monitor, doubtless, was the in-fluential cause of the precipitate abandonment by the rebels of their strong defensive line on the river. The affair was towed up close to the fort at ten o clock last drifted past the fort the rebels opened their guns on it and set off their electrical torpedoes about it; but all to no effect. It passed all these dangers in safety, and sailed on to a point about two miles above the fort, where it met the ebb tide. This at first, aided by the wind, sent it across the river, where it grounded, immediatly in the rear of Hoke's lines at Sugar Loaf. The robels, of course, considered themselves flanked by our most formidable

This is the second time Admiral Porter has tricked the rebels by similar dodges. At Vicksburg, after the rebels had captured our splendid iron-clad gunboat Indianola, and threatened to use her effectually against us, the iral rigged up a similar contrivance and sent ir on the tide past the Vicksburg batteries. The rebels, seeing her coming, ignited slow matches leading to the maga sines of the Indianola and blew her up.

A few stragglers from the fleeing garrison of Fort inderson have just been brought in. They report that two officers were killed and about a dozen men wounded by the naval fire on the fort yesterday.

Our Washington Despatch. WASHINGTON, Feb. 22, 1865 Lieutenant Cushing, who brought the despatches from dmiral Porter to the Navy Department announcing the on of Fort Anderson, says that he has no doubt of the fact that Wilmin ton is now in our pos and the next arrival is confidently expected to bring it ormation or the capture of that city.

#### THE ADVANCE ON WILMINGTON.

nan makes rapid strides towards Richmond. The sapture of Columbia and Charleston, and we have now in all probability, to add that of Wilmington also, has been accomplished within the limits of the sho menth in the year. Before we can receive the confirma tion of our first success by our long outer line of com-munication the rebeis crowd upon us the good news or more important achievements. On Sunday we published the news of the fall of Columbia. On Tuesday the evacuation of Charleston was announced. On Wednesday the news of the capture of Fort Anderson came to hand, and this morning we have the interesting details of another important step has been taken toward the investment of Richmond.

FORT ANDERSON.

Fort Anderson was the most important work of the defences of Cape Fear river left in the hands of the enemy after the capture of Fort Fisher and the defence of Smithville. Like Fisher, it was an ex tensive earthwork, located on Engle's Island, and comnding the channel of the river. It mounted a large number of guns, which raked the approaches by land and Immediately under the cover of the guns the built a large wharf, where also was tablished the quarantine for Wilmington, which caused it to be known for a time as Fort Quarantine. Immediately below the wharf the rebels have lately built some obstructions in the stream; but they were so poorly constructed that Lieutenant Com mander Cushing lately passed them without much diff. ton and Fort Anderson. Since the fall of Fort Fisher the enemy have added materially to the strength of Fort on. On the right flank of the work there has been built a long line of rifle pits, extending across the sland, and thus forming a continuous line of formidable works from the Cape Fear to the Brunswick rivers. On the east side of the river, immediately opposite Fort Anerson, is Sugar Loaf, a strong casemated battery, and the long line of rifle pits of the enemy

THE REBEL WORKS ON THE MAINLAND aid to be very perfect and formidable, extending from Masonboro Sound across to Eugar Loaf, with an advanced line on their right, joining the main work near the centre of the peninsula, forming a fortified encamp ment. The movement of General Schofield on the west ence, avoided these works, and caused their hasty aban-SKETCH OF WILMINGTON.

Wilmington is the capital of Hanover county, N. C., and is situated on the east bank of Cape Fear river, about hirty-four miles from its mouth. It is the largest commercial place in the State, the business and population having been greatly increased by the construction of the to Weldon, on the Roanoke river, one hundred and sixtytwo miles, and forms part of the great highway of travel North and South. This railroad cost \$2,500,000, and up to a short period was in excellent condition. Wilmington to Manchester, and then connects with the branch to Camden, in South Carolina-a very flourishing town, situated on the east bank of the Wateree river, thirty-three miles northeast of Columbia, and one hundred and forty two miles northwest from Charleston, with which it is nected by railroad. This is the Camden where we fought the two battles of that name during the Revolu Lord Cornwallis; the other in April, 1781, between General Greene and Lord Rawdon. Wilmington is thus connected by rail with the most important and fruitfu portions of the neighboring States. From Wilmington steamboats ascend the Cape Fear

and twenty miles. The United States Arsenal at this of arms and powder and shot were secured by the rebels. This arsenal is situated in the southern limits of the city, and has been used by the rebels principally in the manfacture of swords and bayonets. Previous to secession five or six newspapers were published here, and more turing, while four mail steamers kept up a daily com munication with Charleston. The arrivals at the port exclusive of the Charleston steamers and the coasters, were upwards of one thousand. The population in 1854 was ten thousand, and the city carried on a large trade, with tonnage amounting to twenty-nine thousand two hundred and ninety-eight tons. The location is said to be mhealthy, and in consequence the population is pract pally confined to tradesmen and mechanics, the manufac-turing branch of business being quite large.

mportant port of entry in the rebel confederacy, and is of vital interest to Lee's army, and, indeed, to the whole South. In a speech which he made in Wilmington in November last, Jeff. Davis alluded to the port as the Much of the materiel for the rebel armies imported from Europe, by blockade runners, has been herete entered at Wilmington; and the chief supply of cotton for Europe has been shipped from the same point. Ac-cession to the port has heretofore been very easy for ressels of such light draught as could run past our blockading fleet by way of the Beach channel, where our in the rebel confederacy from which such extensive ope rations in blockade running has been carried on as at

## REBEL ACCOUNTS.

Reported Evacuation of Wilmington [From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 28.]
There was a report on the street Saturday evening this pur troops had fallen back from Wilmington. The re-

Morale of Hoke's Division Before Wile

mington.

[From the Richmond Whig, Feb. 20.]

North Carolina, it seems, is particularly cursed with newsmongers, who give currency to whatever tends to have jure our cause. For instance, there was a rumer current says the Fayetteville Journal, here and elsewhere, that says the Fayetteville Journal, here and the same there were extensive desertions from Hoke's division now posted near Wilmington—fifty one night, a hundred another, and a hundred and fifty a third. By an officer who left the division a few days ago (wounded and re-tired) we learn that so far from these statements being true, the fact is that by returns from furlough, &c., the division musters a hundred more men than it did when Fort Fisher feil. And we have other information that such is the statement of the commanding general at Wil-

mington.

It is usually the case that when one Confederate soldier basely deserts his colors that certain croakers im-mediately magnify him into a score.

#### Billiard Match at Hartford. HAMIPORD, Conn., Peb. 22, 1865

The second contest for the championship of Connecti-cut and the golden cue was played last night before a large audience. Gershon B. Hubbell maintained his position as champion, winning the game by 351 points in a game of 1,000. Time, three hours and fifty-five minutes.
The winner's average was seven and three quarters